

First Sunday of Creation

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

September 13, 2026



Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We understand that being truly welcoming involves actively working against racism, heteronormativity, sexism, transphobia, ageism, ableism, classism, and other forces that seek to divide and oppress. We commit to continuing to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

-Romans 15:7

Orientation to the Service

This bulletin will guide you through the entire service. Starting on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

Hymns (songs) are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

Green-topped Welcome Cards are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

Children are welcome in worship! God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children on a shelf in the back of the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

Restrooms can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. An all-gender, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the door to the kitchen.

Online access to the bulletin and hymns: standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/

First Sunday of Creation

September 13, 2026 | 9:30 AM

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation. The ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home. This year, we unite around the theme, "Living Water," inspired by Ezekiel 47:9: "Every living creature that wanders upon the face of the earth will be drawn to the river and will find refreshment there. There will be an abundance of fish, for wherever these waters flow and everything they touch will be renewed." Each Sunday, we will gather around the water, which refreshes us and makes all Creation new.

PRELUDE

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

What environmental issue is breaking your heart or causing you the most concern right now?

During today's service, you are invited to reflect on the question listed above. You may write your answer(s) on a blue slip of paper, found in the basket at the end of your pew. You may place your slip of paper in the offering plate, and it will be added to the liturgical art on the altar for next week's service.

GATHERING

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY ATTENDANT INSTALLATION

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River | ELW 423

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDIDATE

Welcome in the name of God who creates, liberates, and calls us with grace that lasts forever.

Amen.

In baptism, God's love and liberation in Christ is made tangible. In this moment, God's sacred time comes to play with our human time. Baptism claims us by name on a specific day in history and entangles every witness in the good news of God's never-ending "Yes" to us.

God uses water to connect these sacred words to our senses. This is a symbol we already know for its creative power to help and nourish. We use water to clean, bathe, cook, and play. In baptism, we are claimed by the God of living water, a precious and limitless supply of that which gives and sustains life.

Sponsor, who do you present today?

Sponsor: I present Yan Chhai, Cora Cassaly O'Leary, and Naomi Channary O'Leary to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Yan, do you desire to be baptized into the body of Christ, to hear publicly that you are a beloved child of God, and to be surrounded by promises that will nurture you in your faith journey?

Adult Candidate: I do.

And do you desire to have Cora and Naomi baptized into the body of Christ, giving them the opportunity to hear publicly that they are beloved children of God and be surrounded by promises that will nurture them in their faith journeys?

Parent: I do.

BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Yan, as you come to receive the gift of baptism, do you promise to be faithful to your baptismal covenant: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Adult Candidate: I do.

As you bring your daughters to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with the following responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to place in their

hands the holy scriptures, and to nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Cora and Naomi grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parent: I do.

The gift of baptism is freely given by God and does not depend on your own understanding or action. As a member of the body of Christ, you carry these promises together with a community. We baptize in public worship so the church can make promises and speak these promises uniquely for you. We are gathered as one congregation, but we are making these promises on behalf of the whole Christian church across time and space.

People of God, do you promise to help Yan, Cora, and Naomi grow in the Christian faith and life, to be a living testament to God's "Yes" and the wide family we have in the church on earth?

We do!

The world spends plenty of time telling us lies about power, value, and love. Baptism speaks a different word. Grace is a still, small voice that never tires of pushing through our phony labels with what's good and true and lasts forever.

People of God, do you reject the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that pull us away from God?

We do!

Do you promise to speak the truth about Yan, Cora, and Naomi's identity as children of God, affirming them through all circumstances with their first and forever name: Beloved?

We do!

Do you promise to hold healthy and safe space for them to grow in faith, believing there is nothing they can do to make God love them any more or any less than they are already loved in Christ?

We do!

Do you trust in God the Creator, the divine Source of all things?

We trust in God the Creator.

Do you trust in Jesus Christ, Love incarnate, who liberates us from evil and shows us that love is stronger than death?

We trust in Jesus Christ.

Do you trust in the Holy Spirit, who guides us on our journey, interrupts the status quo, and opens up new possibilities?

We trust in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

There's nothing particularly special about the water we are using today. It came from the faucet and is just like the water you drink when you are thirsty or the water you use to bathe at home. But this ordinary water becomes extraordinary, because we know God can do amazing things with water. There are lots of stories in the Bible about water making things new, saving people, and sustaining life. We know that when God makes promises with water, amazing things can happen.

Let us bless this water and remember some of these stories about the power of water and God's promises.

Liberating God, we give you thanks for the waters of creation that have nourished the earth since you spoke life into being. We remember Noah and his family rocking back and forth on the floodwaters, Miriam keeping watch over her brother Moses in the Nile, the Israelites fleeing through the spray of the Red Sea, the thirsty drinks they took from the water that poured from a rock in the desert. You sent your son to be carried by the water and waves of Mary's womb, to be baptized in the Jordan with the crowds, to turn water into wine, to meet the Samaritan woman at the well, to feel the thirst of humanity in life and death. Rain down your Spirit so that, by this water and your word, we are renewed by the gifts of Christ and the truth about love. Amen.

BAPTISM

Yan Chhai, I baptize you in the name of the Creator, who is our Mother and our Father, in the name of the Son, who is the Christ, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Cora Cassaly O'Leary, I baptize you in the name of the Creator, who is our Mother and our Father, in the name of the Son, who is the Christ, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Naomi Channary O'Leary, I baptize you in the name of the Creator, who is our Mother and our Father, in the name of the Son, who is the Christ, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Gracious God, through Jesus, you have destroyed the power of death! And, since death is not so scary anymore, we are set free to live with courage and abundance. Bless Yan, Cora, and Naomi with dignity, belonging, and purpose in You. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the reverence for God, the spirit of joy in your presence.

Amen.

ANOINTING

Yan, beloved child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Cora, beloved child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Naomi, beloved child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

Yan Chhai, you are a new creation in Christ! See? Everything old has passed away, and you are brand new. Be reconciled to God and a blessing in this world.

Cora Cassaly O'Leary, you are a new creation in Christ! See? Everything old has passed away, and you are brand new. Be reconciled to God and a blessing in this world.

Naomi Channary O'Leary, you are a new creation in Christ! See? Everything old has passed away, and you are brand new. Be reconciled to God and a blessing in this world.

WELCOME

Yan, Cora, and Naomi, you have heard this community declare God's big promise, the truest thing of all: You are saved by the grace of God, and nothing you have ever done or could ever do will change it. When you forget this truth, we will all be here to remind you. After all, we now share in the Holy Spirit, which means we are one family, and we are in this together.

Please welcome our newest siblings in Christ, Yan, Cora, and Naomi!

The congregation may applaud.

Elementary-aged children (grades K-5) are invited to attend The Roots Children's Church, led by trained St. Andrew volunteers and located in the Children's Library downstairs. Parents are welcome to observe. The children will return to worship in time to receive communion.

The congregation is seated.

READING

Ezekiel 47:1-12 (The Inclusive Bible)

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹Then my guide brought me back to the portico of the Temple, and I saw water flowing out from beneath the foundation of the Temple toward the east, for the facade of the Temple was toward the east. The water ran along the southern side of the Temple to the right of the altar. ²My guide then took me outside by the north gate, and around to the outer gate facing the east, where I saw a thin stream of water on the southern side. ³After that, my guide took me to the east with a measuring rod and measured off 1,000 cubits. I then had to wade through ankle-deep water. ⁴My guide next measured off another 1,000 cubits and once again I waded through the water, which was now knee-deep. Again my guide measured off 1,000 cubits and had me wade into water up to my waist. ⁵Then my guide measured off a final 1,000 cubits. But now there was a river too deep for me to wade. The water was so deep that it could be crossed only by swimming.

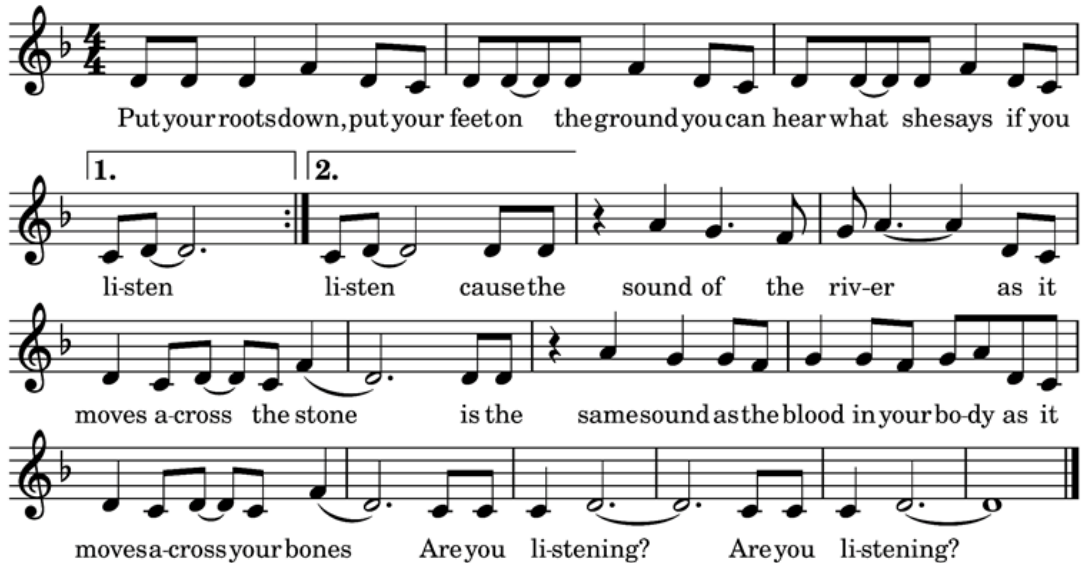
⁶My guide then said, "Note well what you see, mere mortal," and brought me to the edge of the river, where I sat. ⁷I noticed many trees along the bank of the river on both sides. ⁸My guide then said, "The water flows into lands to the east and down to the Arabah. It will empty into the sea whose waters are salt and it will be made fresh." ⁹Every living creature that wanders upon the face of the earth will be drawn to the river and will find refreshment there. There will be an abundance of fish, for wherever these waters flow and everything they touch will be renewed. ¹⁰Anglers from En-gedi to Eneglaim will stand along the banks casting their nets. The fish will be rich in variety, like the fish of the Great Sea. ¹¹The swamps and marshes, however, will not be made fresh: they will be left for salt.

¹²Fruit trees of every kind will grow along both banks of the river. Their leaves will never wither and their fruit will never fail. They will produce fresh fruit, for they will be nourished by the waters flowing from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be food, and their leaves will be medicine."

May the Word as living water, **make everything live.**

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Put your roots down, put your feet on the ground you can hear what she says if you

1. li-sten 2. li-sten cause the sound of the riv-er as it

moves a-cross the stone is the same sound as the blood in your body as it

moves a-cross your bones Are you listening? Are you listening?

GOSPEL

John 7:37-38 (NRSV)

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' "

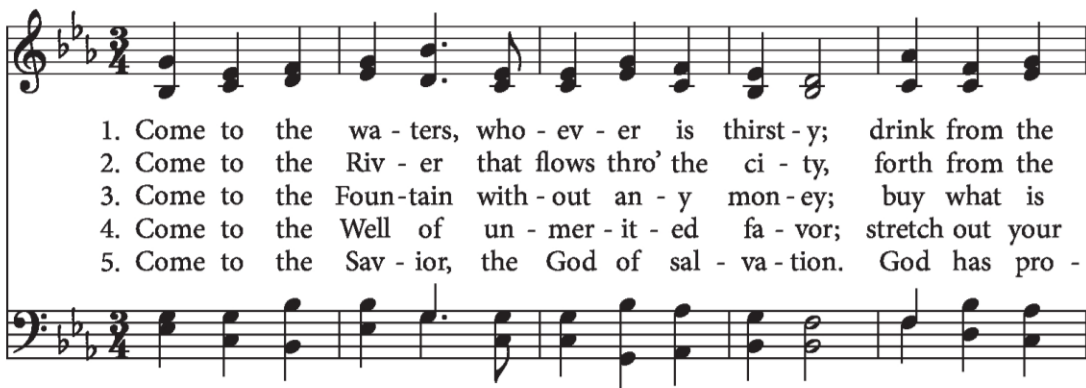
May the Word as living water,
make everything live.

The congregation is seated.

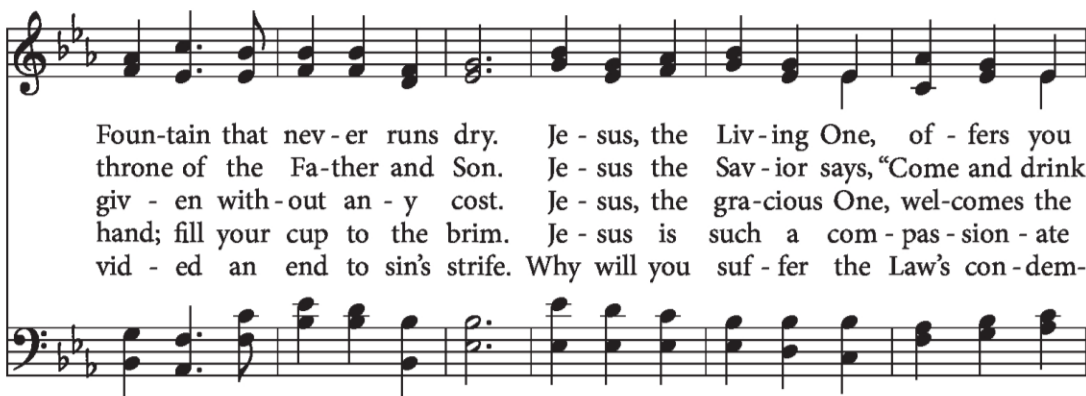
SERMON

Pr. Allison Bengfort

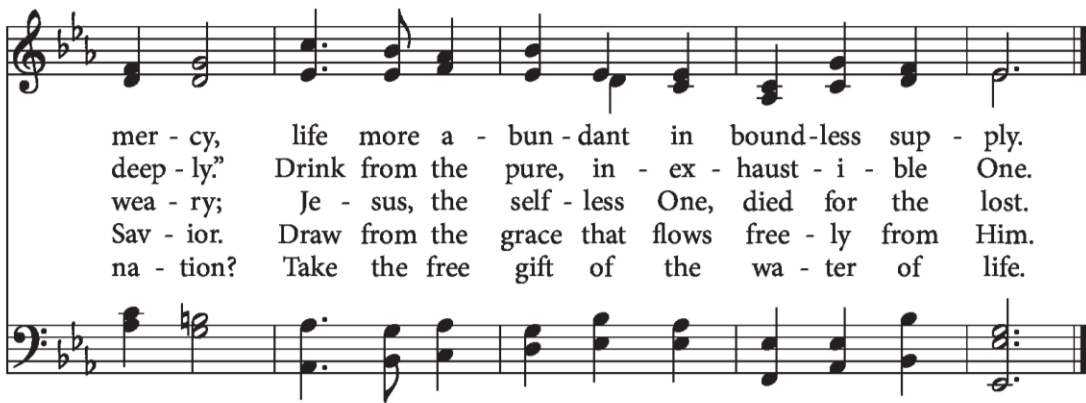
The congregation may stand.



1. Come to the wa - ters, who - ev - er is thirst - y; drink from the
 2. Come to the Riv - er that flows thro' the ci - ty, forth from the
 3. Come to the Foun-tain with - out an - y mon - ey; buy what is
 4. Come to the Well of un - mer - it - ed fa - vor; stretch out your
 5. Come to the Sav - ior, the God of sal - va - tion. God has pro -



Foun-tain that nev - er runs dry. Je - sus, the Liv - ing One, of - fers you
 throne of the Fa-ther and Son. Je - sus the Sav - ior says, "Come and drink
 giv - en with - out an - y cost. Je - sus, the gra - cious One, wel - comes the
 hand; fill your cup to the brim. Je - sus is such a com - pas - sion - ate
 vid - ed an end to sin's strife. Why will you suf - fer the Law's con - dem -



mer - cy, life more a - bun - dant in bound - less sup - ply.
 deep - ly." Drink from the pure, in - ex -haust - i - ble One.
 wea - ry; Je - sus, the self - less One, died for the lost.
 Sav - ior. Draw from the grace that flows free - ly from Him.
 na - tion? Take the free gift of the wa - ter of life.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation. We believe in God as the Source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee--who loves and cares for this world and suffers with it. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in eternal life with God. And we believe in the hope that one day, God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The congregation assumes a posture of prayer. You may kneel, sit, or stand; fold your hands or turn them upward; close your eyes or look to the altar.

**God of living waters,
refresh our spirits.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

**The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.**

All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.). Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you prefer not to physically touch others.

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As people of faith, we acknowledge that all we have flows from God. As stewards of God's resources, we open our hands in gratitude, allowing the gifts and resources we have received to flow through us and be shared with the world. At this time, I invite you to share a piece of your heart with this community. Please place any blue slips with responses to the reflection question that you'd like to share along with your financial offerings in the plate as it is passed.

*Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online by scanning the QR code to the right.
Thank you for your generosity!*



OFFERING

"Sheep May Safely Graze," by J.S. Bach
Kristie Gladhill, flute; Jon Thorpe, cello

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of creation, you send rain, and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you. Make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

DIALOGUE

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

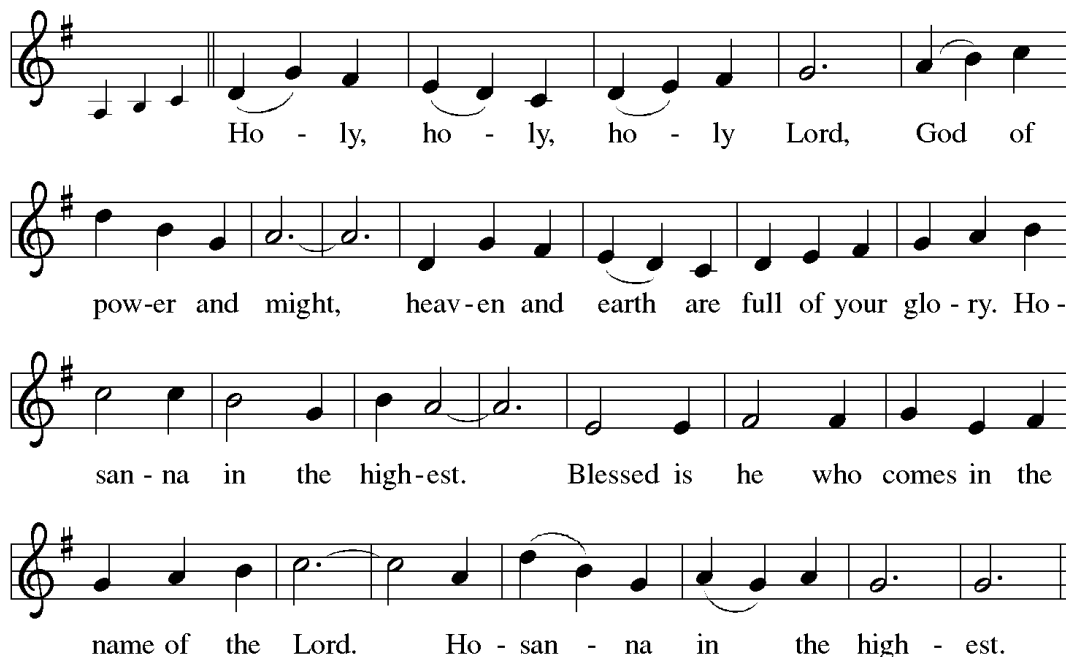
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the wine (red chalice) or the grape juice (light-colored

chalice), or you may choose to partake of bread only. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG

Sung repeatedly.

Optional descant

Feed us jus - tice. Feed us your peace.

Feed us with hun-ger for jus-tice. Feed us with thirst for peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Many and Great, O God | ELW 837

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD.

BLESSING

May God our Creator, who brought water from the rock, sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord, who is Living Water, refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit, who carries us on currents of grace, bring us to the day where justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

You have been named through the waters of baptism as Christ's own people.
God in peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pr Allison Bengfort
Preacher: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Assisting Minister: Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Lector: Kristie Gladhill
Organist: Karl Gustafson
Greeters:
Ushers: Amy Harker
Communion Assistants:

Worship Coordinator: Pat Christiansen
Tech Team: Janet Vorvick, Chase Isaacson
Zoom Host: Rebecca Uecker
Nursery: Rachel Johnson, Lee Ann Knapp
Children's Church: Tracie Semenchalam,
Lindsay Delaney
Altar Guild: Susan Reiser
Altar Flowers: Tracie Semenchalam

The flowering plant on the altar is offered in honor of those baptized this day.

*Baptismal liturgy is adapted from "Speak It Plain" by Pr. Meta Herrick Carlson.
Portions of the liturgy are adapted from "Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2026,"
released by the Ecumenical Season of Creation Steering Committee.
Other portions of the liturgy are taken from sundaysandseasons.com.
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